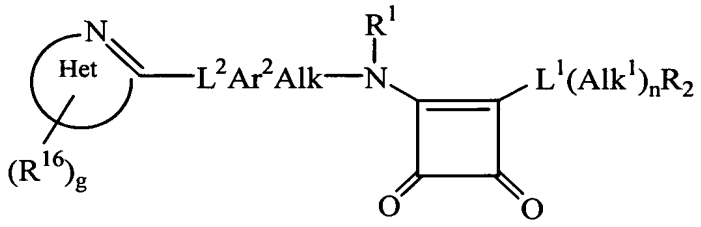
1. (Amended twice) A compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein

Het is a bicyclic fused ring heteroaromatic group;

g is zero or the integer 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Each R^{16}, which may be the same or different, is an atom or group $-L^3(Alk^2)_tL^4(R^4)_u$,

L^3 and L^4, which may be the same or different, are each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)O-$, $-N(R^8)N-$, $-CON(R^8)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$, or $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$,

R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group,

t is zero or the integer 1,

u is an integer 1, 2 or 3,

Alk^2 is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain, and

R^4 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, $-OR^5$ (where R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group), $-SR^5$, $-NR^5R^6$ (where R^6 is as just defined for R^5 and may be the same or different), $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^5$, $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^5$, SO_2R^5, $-SO_3R^5$, $-OCO_2R^5$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-OCONR^5R^6$, $-CSNR^5R^6$, $-COR^5$, $-OCOR^5$, $-N(R^5)COR^6$,

$-N(R^5)CSR^6$, $-SO_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, $-N(R^5)SO_2R^6$, $N(R^5)CON(R^6)(R^7)$ (where R^7 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8}cycloalkyl group), $-N(R^5)CSN(R^6)(R^7)$ or $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^6)(R^7)$,

provided that when t is zero and each of L^3 and L^4 is a covalent bond then u is the integer 1 and R^4 is other than a hydrogen atom;

L^2 is a covalent bond or an atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2$, $-N(R^8)-$ or $-C(R^8)(R^{8a})-$ (where R^{8a} is an atom or group as defined for R^8 and may be the same or different);

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Ar^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk is a chain

$-CH_2CH(R)-$, $-CH=C(R)-$, $-\underset{\displaystyle CH_2R}{\overset{\displaystyle |}{CH}}-$ or $-\underset{\displaystyle CHR}{\overset{\displaystyle \|}{C}}-$

in which R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$), a carboxylic acid ester, a carboxylic acid amide, or a carboxylic acid biostere;

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6}alkyl group;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)O-$, $-N(R^8)N-$, $-CON(R^8)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$, or $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic chain;

n is zero or the integer 1;

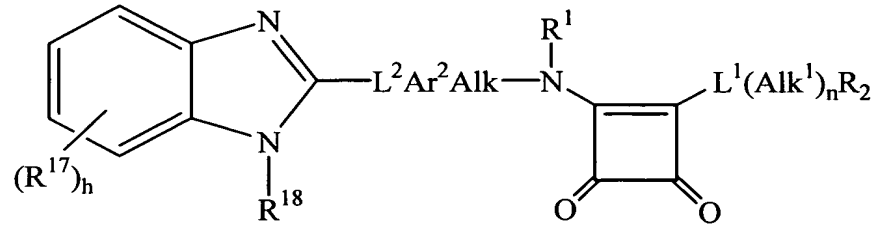
R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted heteroaliphatic, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkenyl, C_{3-10}heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-10}heterocycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}bicycloalkyl, C_{7-10}tricycloalkyl, C_{7-10}bicycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}tricycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}bicycloheteroalkyl, C_{7-}

$_{10}$tricycloheteroalkyl, C_{7-10}bicycloheteroalkenyl, C_{7-10}tricycloheteroalkenyl, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, wherein said heteroaliphatic, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, bicycloheteroalkyl, tricycloheteroalkyl, bicycloheteroalkenyl and tricycloheteroalkenyl groups contain one, two, three, or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups as defined for L^3 and L^4, which may be the same or different;

provided that Het is not a 2,6-naphthyridin-1-yl, isoquinolin-1-yl, 2,7-naphthyridin-1-yl or quinazolin-4-yl group;

and the salts and N-oxides thereof.

15. (Amended Twice) A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (2a):



(2a)

wherein:

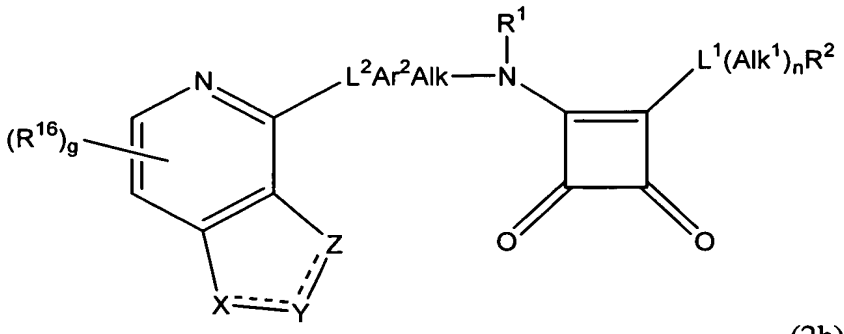
R^{17} is an atom or group R^{16} as previously defined;

h is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

R^{18} is a hydrogen atom or an atom or group R^{16} as previously defined;

and the salts and N-oxides thereof.

16. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (2b):



(2b)

wherein:

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X, Y and Z ~~is~~ are each independently selected from a nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atom or CH group;

the broken line (---) represents saturation or unsaturation;

and the salts and N-oxides thereof.

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19. (Amended Twice) A compound which is:

S-2-{[2-Dipropylamino)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

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S-2-{[2-Dipropylamino)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

S-2-{[2-(2-Methylpiperidin-1-yl)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

(*S*)-3-[4-(Thiophen[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-ylamino)phenyl]2-(2-(diethylamino-3, 4-dioxocyclobut-1-enylamino)propanoic acid;

and the salts, N-oxides and carboxylic acid esters thereof.

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21. (Amended Twice) A method for the treatment of inflammatory arthritis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma or inflammatory bowel disease comprising administering to a mammal suffering from such a disease or disorder a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

REMARKS

Following entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1 to 21, 23, 24, and 27 will be pending in the application. Claims 1, 15, 16, 19, and 21 have been amended, and claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled, herein. No new claims have been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 6, 2003 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, each publication or portion thereof, and all other information or portion thereof, to be submitted to the Patent Office. Applicants respectfully submit that all twenty-seven references listed on the 1449 Form submitted with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed January 6, 2003 were submitted to the Patent Office. Enclosed is a copy of the date-stamped return post card indicating that the Information Disclosure Statement, 1449 Form, and copies of the twenty-seven references were received by the Patent Office on January 6, 2003. Also enclosed is a clean copy of the 1449 Form. Applicants